

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 680

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Bob Kilgore upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals in the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately included Bob Kilgore, who has served the Walking Horse industry with distinction in numerous capacities for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, shortly after being introduced to the Walking Horse industry, Mr. Kilgore and his wife, Mary Dell, reached the pinnacle of the industry by winning the world champion with the horse, Pride's Ultra Proof, at the 1986 Celebration; since that successful beginning, the Kilgores have either owned or co-owned eleven different world champions and ten world grand champions, including the 1997 World Grand Champion, Santana, and the 2005 World Grand Champion, Main Power; and

WHEREAS, a man of diverse talents, Bob Kilgore has been instrumental in bringing his creative, entrepreneurial skills to the industry, and his pre-selling of breeding certificates and syndication of young champion stallions have played a major role in driving value to unprecedented industry levels; and

WHEREAS, he has also had great success in putting together large groups of investors to help stabilize the yearling market, and he continues to develop innovative ideas to modernize the horse sale auction business while operating his horse farm, Sand Creek Farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kilgore's varied background has helped him achieve much success in the Walking Horse industry; and

WHEREAS, Bob Kilgore grew up on a cotton and dairy farm in Northport, Alabama, where he learned hard work and farm operations assisting his parents and seven brothers and sisters in completing the daily farm chores, including milking, feeding cattle, plowing cotton, and other duties; and

WHEREAS, in school, he was actively involved in organized sports and the Tuscaloosa County 4-H program; through his involvement in national 4-H leadership competition, he had the great distinction of being one of six national winners awarded a college scholarship by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation at the National 4-H Convention; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Alabama with a degree in finance, Mr. Kilgore bravely served his country in the United States Army; he was a company commander in Vietnam and had achieved the rank of First Lieutenant when he was honorably discharged at the end of his distinguished tour; and

WHEREAS, with money he had saved and a bank loan, Bob Kilgore opened his first fast food restaurant and later entered into the full service restaurant business with the opening of the Landing Restaurants in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Fort Walton Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, after several years of success, Mr. Kilgore sold all of his restaurant interests and devoted his attention to multi-family and commercial real estate business; and

WHEREAS, Bob Kilgore has been very active in civic services and has served on many local and state boards, including the Industrial Development Authority Board, and during his tenure, he was instrumental in bringing Mercedes Benz International to the community, which is one of the largest employers in Tuscaloosa County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kilgore has been married to Mary Dell Pagenhardt, who he credits for introducing him to the Walking Horse industry in 1976. This blessed union has produced two sons, Robert Brian Kilgore and Matthew Connor Kilore; a daughter-in-law, Natalie Tiger Kilgore; and two grandchildren, Katy Jayne Kilgore and Connor Dean Kilgore; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Mr. Bob Kilgore has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and commend Mr. Bob Kilgore on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.